



The UUCG beacon

JULY 2007

The *beacon* is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

July 1

"What Do I Believe?"

Bill Baker

July 8

What Makes a Good Leader?

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

July 15

What I learned at G.A..

**Rev. Frieda Gillespie
and Karen Hall**

July 22

Secrets and Confessions

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

July 29

To Be Announced

**The Board and Committe
Chairs**

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Reflections on changing jobs

As I sit here on Monday morning typing my first President's Notes for the *Beacon* before the deadline tomorrow, although nearly 2 weeks before I assume the job, it is weighing heavily on me about all the things that are involved with starting a new job, even before you start the new job.

Not only am I changing jobs at church, moving from Vice President to President, but today as I write this, I work for one county, and by the end of the week, I'll be working for a different county.

If you're one of many people who do the same job, you have redundancy which makes one person's leaving, and another taking his or her place a relatively minor transition. But in smaller organizations where job functions are more unique, one person's departure can make a big impact in the operations of the whole organization. Without a transitional period to train your successor, there's a lot that goes into making sure that things will run as smoothly as possible during the transition.

Although I've been busy during my last weeks working for Edgecombe County finishing up projects I've started and training people to do tasks they will be taking over in my absence, I still expect to get calls quite frequently from my old co-workers like "Where can I find...?" or "How do I do...?" And I'm sure I'll be doing the same thing, calling or emailing the person who formerly held my new job in Greene County for some time as I get used to how things are done there as opposed to here.

I'm extremely lucky that I have the advantage as I also take on the job as the new President of our congregation that Feryl is still on the Board to help me in the transition, a luxury that he didn't have when Randi left, and that Randi didn't have when Gloria left.

Other officers on the Board, both outgoing and incoming, are going through similar experiences right now. Brenda is teaching Claudia about how to use our accounting software; Patrice is consulting with Sue about how she prepares the minutes for Board meetings; and Feryl will probably talk with me at length about ways we can improve the effectiveness of the Program Council, even though he has held the position before. We all have to adjust to our new roles and make them our own.

Experiencing all of this makes me appreciate even more the role that Frieda has played as our Interim Minister! Imagine coming into a congregation, uprooting your life and moving to a new place with such a responsibility to learn about a congregation and to try and prepare it for a new minister, and to only have a year to accomplish the task! In August, she'll be leaving us to go to Georgia and do the same thing for another congregation there. Similarly, Ann Marie will be moving to Greenville in August to take over as our new Settled Minister. They both have a lot to do to prepare for their departures in their old jobs and to get prepared for their new ones. At least in my job changes, both professional and with the church, I do not also have to move to a new community and a new home!

In closing, I have a request of everyone in the congregation. The coming few months are a big transition for us. First we have the largest influx of new Board members and committee chairs in recent memory, quickly followed by the arrival of our new minister. Be patient with us as we adjust to our new roles, and be understanding when we make changes to how things are accomplished. What worked for our predecessor may not be the best way for us, and we may need to try a few different things before we find the right fit. Patience and understanding are key to making this a successful transition for us all!

-- Rich Elkins

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Rev Frieda Gillespie

Joys, Concerns and Admonitions

Rituals have a valuable place in worship and they become so familiar to us that we don't stop to think about them any more. And so, I think it's helpful to pause and reacquaint ourselves with the why and what of a ritual so that it doesn't lose its primary meaning over time. The ritual I have in mind to review is Concerns, Joys, and Milestones.

We have this time in our service to share the major milestones and sorrows of our lives. Doing this allows us to 1) experience the loving support of the church community, 2) unburden ourselves and 3) be known by others so that our relationships can be deeper and more meaningful here. This is a sacred ritual important to many for spiritual growth and for understanding one another.

Because of the importance of Concerns, Joys and Milestones to the community, we actively discourage anything that would dilute or distract from this important moment such as announcements, long or detailed stories, or minor incidents in our lives. These have a place too, and can be shared through the Sunday announcements, the Beacon or at coffee hour.

My hope is that this will encourage you to use this time to deepen your connection to UUCG.

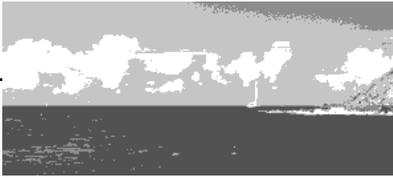
Gather Ye Rosebuds While Ye May....

My last day at UUCG will be **August 12th**. I will be in town **July 8th**, and **August 5th**. Do plan to come see me, or invite me to come see you, while I'm in Greenville, if you'd like to talk with me before I leave or if you'd like to say goodbye. Many of you have heard that I have accepted an interim position at the UU Church of Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN) in Roswell, GA. I will begin there on September 6th.

Attention New UUs and Leaders (or Leaders in training)

I've pulled together books that would be helpful to people new to UUism, or those that want to know more about it, in one collection and those on the Board and Committee chairs and anyone else interested in leadership training in another collection. Please make use of these resources, by checking them out during Jess' office hours or on Sunday.

--In faith, Frieda



On The Horizon

SUNDAYS in PREVIEW

Jul 1st -- *"What Do I Believe?"* -- **Bill Baker** -- Worship Committee member Bill Baker has agreed to revive his controversial service titled, "What Do I Believe?" This is a very enjoyable service he has not given for a couple of years in which members are selected by a drawing of numbers to respond to a series of printed statements from religions of the world.

July 8th -- *What Makes a Good Leader?* -- **Rev. Frieda Gillespie** -- Our Lay Leaders will be changing over this month for the new church year. We will recognize those that served this past year and introduce the incoming leaders. This is a good time to reflect on the qualities in a good leader.

July 15th - *What I Learned at GA* -- **Rev. Frieda Gillespie and Karen Hall** -- Karen and I will tell you the highlights of our experiences at General Assembly.

July 22nd - *Secrets and Confessions* - **Rev. Frieda Gillespie** -- Secrets can take a terrible toll on us and cause unexpected harm to our loved ones as well. In this age of seemingly unbounded confession in books and television, it's hard to know when to speak and when to keep silent.

July 29th -- *To Be Announced* -- **The Board and Committee chairs**

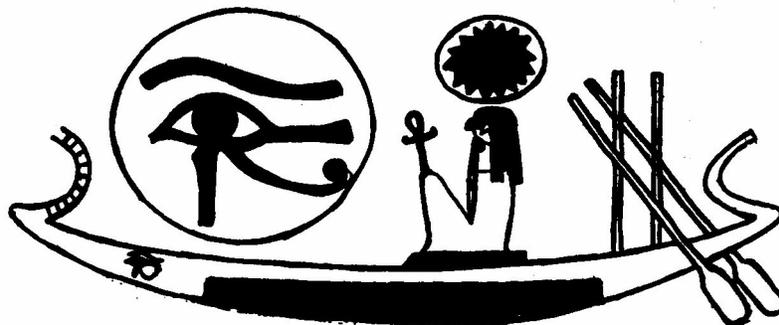
FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday (July 28th) to assist with the food distribution. Our congregation has promised to have at least 9 workers for each 4th Saturday distribution. Please arrive by 8:30am to receive your assignments. The distribution begins at 9:00am until 12:00pm. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes to cars.

UUCG collects plastic grocery bags for First Born. There is a large plastic, blue container in the library for the bags. I deliver the bags to First Born each month. The bags must be clean, dry and odor free. Please do not bring plastic bags with RED letters.

If you can provide a ride for other UUCG members please let me know. If you need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your help.
--Toni Britt Tyer





Dates in gray indicate days that Frieda is in Framingham, MA.
 To contact her call: 252-367-0103 or email: minister@uugreenvillenc.org

JULY 2007 in PREVIEW

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>What Do We Believe?</i> ---Bill Baker	2	3 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel	4 6:00 Dine Out @ No Dining Out Independence Day	5	6	7
8 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>What Makes a Good Leader -</i> Rev Gillespie	9	10 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel	11 6:00 Dine Out @ Chili's	12	13	14 9:00 Bldg & Grnds 
15 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>What I Learned at GA --</i> Rev Gillespie & K.Hall	16 7:00 Board Mtg	17 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel	18 6:00 Dine Out @ Red Lobster	19	20	21
22 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>Secrets & Confessions --</i> Rev Gillespie	23	24 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel	25 6:00 Dine Out @ Szechuan Gardens	26	27	28 9:00 First Born
29 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>TBA --</i> Board & Committee Chairs	30	31 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel				

Young Adults Group

The young adults group will meet on July 17 at 6:30 for a pot luck discussion. We will continue our discussion of the 7 principles. This month we will be discussing the Third principle "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." If you are in your 20's and 30's come and join the fun!

--Jess Patterson

Directory

A New directory will be printed in September. If you have any corrections to the current directory please contact Jess at (252) 355-6658 or office@uugreenvillenc.org. Additionally let Jess know if you would prefer a soft copy of the directory via excel spreadsheet e-mailed to you rather than the paper version.

--Jess Patterson

SUUSI! SUUSI! SUUSI!

I've never heard a returned attender of the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) who didn't tell of their experiences with enthusiasm.

It's not too late to go to Blacksburg this year (July 15-21st). If you mail your registration after July 7th, phone Kate Hofmann (336-788-4639) -- between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. please.

SUUSI's delectable menu for this year can be read by clicking a catalog page given at <http://www.suusi.org/catalog/2007>

--Carroll Webber

From the RE Committee

School is out, summer is here, and the RE department at the UUCG is a popular place to hang out. The Tweens will be doing activities, crafts and yoga until September when their regular Religious Education curriculum will start-up again. Attendance has been good and we have even seen a new face or two.

The Pool party was a big hit. All of the teens attended with some of their parents. It was a beautiful day. The teens played some imaginative pool games and only came out to fill up on hotdogs, chips, and lemonade. Hospitality was provided by Janet Doig and the pool was provided by her daughter Lisa Conner. Charles Gunther was very generous to buy the pool party at the UU auction and offer it to the RE department. We thank them all!

Teen movie night continues to be a success. For July the teens have chosen to attend the opening of the new Harry Potter movie instead of watching a movie at the church. Teens, put July 14th on your calendars—you don't want to miss it.

RE's big event in the summer is the Harry Potter Magic School, August 6th through 10th. Planning has already begun. Teachers and assistants for the classes have been lined up and Gail Butler has put a lot of energy and imagination into creating the curriculum. Frieda will be teaching an adult RE class concurrently for the parents and other adults who want to join us. We still need volunteers to donate class supplies and ingredients for the meals. So, whether it's several pounds of shredded cheese for tacos or a whole pot of soup, we would really appreciate your help during this very busy week. Contact Patty Gade, Victoria Brown, or Gail Butler if you would like to contribute.

--Patty Gade

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



- July 4 -- Holiday -- No Dining Out
July 11 -- **Chili's Bar & Grill** -- 3050 S. Evans Street -- 355-7449
July 18 -- **Red Lobster** -- 3501 S. Memorial Drive 756-4000
July 25 -- **Szechuan Guarden** -- 302-A Greenville Blvd -- 757-1818

Let's Eat!

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Sylvia English know if you plan to come so that an appropriate number of places can be made available at the restaurant.

**The Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858
355-6658**

Minister, Rev Frieda Gillespie
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Feryl Masters
Secretary, Patrice Alexander
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
Office Administrator, Jess Patterson,

Committee Chairs
Building and Grounds: Ruel Tyer
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Feryl Masters (acting)
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Marta Dominquez
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

